



Preface

About This Guide

This guide is intended for anyone who uses the Dell PowerEdge 300 computer system. The guide can be used by both first-time and experienced computer users who want to learn about the features and operation of the systems or who want to upgrade their systems. The files in this guide are summarized as follows:

- Everyone should read Chapter 1, "Introduction," for an overview of the system features, a description of the controls and indicators on the front panel, and a general discussion of connecting external devices to the back panel of the system.
- Users who want to use the utilities, the diagnostics, or the online documentation, or who want to install drivers for their operating system, should read Chapter 2, "Using the Dell OpenManage Server Assistant CD."
- Everyone should read the first several sections of Chapter 3, "Using the System Setup Program," to become familiar with this important program. Only users who want to make configuration changes to their system or who want to use the password features need to read the rest of "Using the System Setup Program."
- Everyone should read Chapter 4, "Using the Resource Configuration Utility," whenever an Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) expansion card is added, removed, or repositioned in the computer, or when the settings for one of the built-in devices is changed.
- Appendix A, "Technical Specifications," summarizes the technical specifications of the PowerEdge 300 system.
- Appendix B, "I/O Ports and Connectors," provides specific information about the ports and connectors on the back panel of the PowerEdge 300 system.
- Appendix C, "Maintaining the System," contains preventive maintenance procedures for the computer system.
- Appendix D, "Regulatory Notices," is for users who are interested in which regulatory agencies have tested and approved Dell PowerEdge 300 systems.
- Appendix E, "Limited Warranty and Return Policy," describes the warranty and return policy for Dell PowerEdge 300 systems.
- The "Glossary," provides definitions of terms, acronyms, and abbreviations used in this guide.

Warranty and Return Policy Information

Dell Computer Corporation (“Dell”) manufactures its hardware products from parts and components that are new or equivalent to new in accordance with industry-standard practices. For information about the Dell warranty for your system, see “Limited Warranty and Return Policy.”

Other Documents You May Need

In addition to this *User's Guide*, the following documentation is included with your system:

- The *Installation and Troubleshooting Guide* provides instructions for installing system hardware and includes troubleshooting and diagnostic procedures for testing your computer system.
- The Dell OpenManage Server Agent documentation describes the server management software, including alert messages issued by the software.

You may also have one or more of the following documents:

- Operating system documentation is included with the system if you ordered the operating system software from Dell. This documentation describes how to install (if necessary), configure, and use the operating system software.
- Documentation is included with any options you purchase separately from the system. This documentation includes information that you need to configure and install these options in your Dell computer.
- Technical information files—sometimes called “readme” files—may be installed on the hard-disk drive to provide last-minute updates about technical changes to the system or advanced technical reference material intended for experienced users or technicians.
- Documentation updates are sometimes included with the system to describe changes to the system or software. Always read these updates before consulting any other documentation because the updates often contain information that supersedes the information in the other documents.

Notational Conventions

The following subsections list notational conventions used in this document.

Notes, Cautions, and Warnings

Throughout this guide, there may be blocks of text printed in bold type or in italic type. These blocks are notes, cautions, and warnings, and they are used as follows:



NOTE: A *NOTE* indicates important information that helps you make better use of your computer system.



CAUTION: A **CAUTION** indicates either potential damage to hardware or loss of data and tells you how to avoid the problem.



WARNING: A **WARNING** indicates the potential for bodily harm and tells you how to avoid the problem.

Typographical Conventions

The following list defines (where appropriate) and illustrates typographical conventions used as visual cues for specific elements of text throughout this document:

- Interface components are window titles, button and icon names, menu names and selections, and other options that appear on the monitor screen or display. They are presented in bold.

Example: Click **OK**.

- Keycaps are labels that appear on the keys on a keyboard. They are enclosed in angle brackets.

Example: <Enter>

- Key combinations are series of keys to be pressed simultaneously (unless otherwise indicated) to perform a single function.

Example: <Ctrl><Alt>

- Commands presented in lowercase bold are for reference purposes only and are not intended to be typed when referenced.

Example: "Use the **format** command to. . ."

In contrast, commands presented in the Courier New font are a part of an instruction and intended to be typed.

Example: "Type `format a:` to format the diskette in drive A."

- Filenames and directory names are presented in lowercase bold.

Example: **autoexec.bat** and **c:\windows**

- Syntax lines consist of a command and all its possible parameters. Commands are presented in lowercase bold; variable parameters (those for which you substitute a value) are presented in lowercase italics; constant parameters are presented in lowercase bold. The brackets indicate items that are optional.

Example: **del** [*drive:*] [*path*]**filename** [/p]

- Command lines consist of a command and may include one or more of the command's possible parameters. Command lines are presented in the Courier New font.

Example: `del c:\myfile.doc`

- Screen text is a message or text that you are instructed to type as part of a command (referred to as a command line). Screen text is presented in the Courier New font.

Example: The following message appears on your screen:

No boot device available

Example: "Type md c:\dos, and then press <Enter>."

- *Variables* are symbols for which you substitute a value. They are presented in italics.

Example: DIMM x (where x represents the DIMM socket designation)